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NEWS RELEASE

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No-Smoking Draft Rules Available on the Internet

The draft rules addressing indoor smoking are now available for review on the Internet to business owners and the general public. The Idaho Legislature passed Senate Bill 1283 last legislative session, which bans indoor smoking in most public places. The draft rules being developed provide clarity to the new law. The bill addressing indoor smoking goes into effect on July 1.

Business owners and interested citizens are encouraged to review SB 1283 to determine the impact the law will have on their businesses. Business owners may want to consult their attorney or the organization representing their interests for a detailed interpretation of this law and the proposed draft rules in relationship to their specific businesses.

Hearings to collect public comment on the draft rules will be held throughout the state in August. The hearings are not a forum to debate the law, but will be focused on improving the draft rules. Following the series of public hearings, the final proposed rules and all public comments will be presented to the Director of Health and Welfare. The final rules will then go to the 2005 Idaho Legislature for approval.

The hearings are scheduled for 7-9 p.m. at each location:

- **August 9: Boise, AmeriTel Spectrum, 7499 West Overland;**
- **August 11: Coeur d'Alene, AmeriTel, 333 Ironwood Ave.;**
- **August 12: Lewiston, Red Lion, 621 21st St.;**
- **August 17: Pocatello, AmeriTel, 1440 Bench Rd.;**
- **August 18: Idaho Falls, AmeriTel, 645 Lindsey; and**
- **August 23: Twin Falls, AmeriTel, 1377 Blue Lakes Blvd. North.**

The Bureau of Community and Environmental Health for the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare has been working with stakeholders to develop the draft rules. The groups participating include legislators; law enforcement; legal representatives; business owners; regulatory authorities; associations for retailers, food and lodging; and other interested stakeholders.

Many businesses and public places will be affected by the new law. The Department of Health and Welfare has received numerous inquiries about the bill, using these questions and comments in the rule making process. The public hearings will provide additional opportunities for input on the draft rules.

Besides businesses, hospitals and schools also will become smoke-free. Hospitals must maintain a 20-foot perimeter of no-smoking around their public entrances and exits, while schools must maintain a 20-foot perimeter of no-smoking around all entrances and exits.

SB 1283 and the draft rules are available online at www2.state.id.us/dhw/smokingrules.htm.

People who do not have Internet access can obtain copies of SB1283, the draft rules and frequently asked questions by calling the Idaho CareLine at 2-1-1, or 1-800-926-2588.

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(Editors: For more information, please contact Elke Shaw-Tulloch, Bureau Chief for Community and Environmental Health, Idaho Department of Health and Welfare, 208-334-5950.)